

APPENDIX "A"
CLAIMS LISTING

1-32. (Cancelled).

33-56. (Cancelled).

57-152. (Cancelled)

153. (Withdrawn) A method of facilitating provision of offering to customers, wherein the method comprises:

entering offering provider offerings into a database operated by a facilitation provider;

entering brand partner customization elements into the database;

adding customer accounts received via the Internet into the database for customers
associated with brand partners;

generating from the database a list of offerings available to a customer based on a
customer affiliation, wherein the list is tailored according to customization
elements of the associated brand partner,

transmitting the list of offerings to the customer via the Internet;

receiving order information from customers;

updating the database to reflect the order information;

providing the order information via the Internet to appropriate offering providers;

receiving communications from the offering providers regarding specific orders; and

updating the customer account in the database to reflect the communications.

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154. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 153, wherein the offerings comprise utilities, the brand partners comprise property managers, and the customers comprise tenants of properties managed by the property managers.

155. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 153, wherein the brand partners comprise educational institutions and armed forces.

156. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 153, wherein the brand partners include one or more offering providers.

157. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 153, wherein the offerings include goods for lease.

158. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 153, wherein the offerings include goods for purchase.

159. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 153, wherein the offerings include services for purchase.

160. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 153, wherein the offerings include modification of services.

161. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 153, wherein the offerings include information transactions.

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162. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 153, further comprising:

 sending a list of offering categories to the customer before said act of generating a list of offerings, wherein the list of offering categories is selected based on the customer affiliation.

163. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 162, further comprising:

 sending a comparison of customer-selected offerings in response to customer selection of one or more offerings from said list of offerings.

164. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 163, wherein the comparison comprises a display page in tabular form having a first portion displaying offering plans, a second portion displaying packages, and a third portion displaying features, wherein the plans, packages, and features for a given offering are confined to a corresponding column.

165. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 164, wherein the comparison includes a selection icon for each of the packages, and further includes a selection icon for each row of features.

166. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 165, wherein the comparison includes a price for each offering, and wherein the prices are dynamically updated to reflect a combined selection of plans and packages.

167. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 165, wherein the comparison includes a pricing label for each feature of each offering, and wherein the pricing labels are dynamically updated to reflect a pricing status that corresponds to a selected combination of plans and packages.

168. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 167, wherein the pricing status is one of a set of statuses consisting of a price value, an “included” status, an “optional” status, and a “not available” status.

169. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 168, wherein the database stores offerings in a data structure having a plan component, a package component, and a feature component, wherein the plan component indicates a base offering, the package component indicates collections of features purchasable as a unit, and the feature component indicates augmentations to the base offering that are individually purchasable.

170. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 153, wherein the plan component further indicates rules specifying which packages and features are combinable with specific plans.

171. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 153, wherein the customization elements include an image identifying the brand partner, wherein the image is continually displayed to the customer during the customer’s interaction with the computer.

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172. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 153, wherein the customization elements allow the brand partner to create an appearance which is uniquely associated with the brand partner.

173. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 172, wherein the customization elements include layout, foreground color, background color, text color, logo, and a marketing image.

174. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 172, wherein the customization elements include text content and font.

175. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 153, wherein the order information is provided to service providers in notification form which allows the offering providers to contact the customer directly to fulfill the order.

176. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 153, wherein the order information is provided to offering providers in emailed link form which allows the offering providers to retrieve the order information from the online service using web-based software.

177. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 153, wherein the order information is periodically retrieved by the appropriate offering provider via the Internet.

178. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 153, wherein the communications from the offering provider include data elements specific to a new service account for the customer, and further include a text message to the customer.

179. (New) An automated method for facilitating a user's selection of residential or business products or services provided to a property having a geographic location, the method comprising:

maintaining a database comprising product or service offerings in a plurality of offering categories available to said geographic location;

presenting a user with a plurality of said offering categories, wherein each of said offering categories corresponds to a product or service type available to said geographic location;

receiving from said user, user's selection of one or more offering categories;

generating for each offering category selected by said user, a summary of one or more product or service offerings available from one or more providers of said product or services to said geographic location; and

transmitting to said user said summary of offerings.

180. (New) The method of Claim 179, further comprising:

receiving from said user an order for one or more product or service offerings in one or more of said offering categories.

181. (New) The method of Claim 180, further comprising:

making available to each provider of said product or service offerings ordered by said user each said received order corresponding to said provider's product or service offering.

182. (New) The method of Claim 181, further comprising:

providing said user with access to one or more user accounts, each said account corresponding to a product or service offering ordered by said user.

183. (New) The method of Claim 182, wherein said one or more user accounts are maintained by said providers of said product or service offerings.

184. (New) The method of Claim 182, wherein said user may manage said user account.

185. (New) The method of Claim 184, wherein said management of said user account enables said user to perform one or more of the following functions: verify the status of the order related to said product or service offering, update said user's profile related to said account, retrieve reports, pay for said product or service, modify said product or service offering, or terminate said product or service.

186. (New) The method of Claim 179, wherein an offering category may comprise electric utility, natural gas, metered water, telephone, television, satellite, cable, internet, security system, change of address, post office, furniture, appliance, storage, moving, pet care, childcare, bottled water, periodical, newspaper, delivery, grocery, parking, club membership, motor vehicle, dry cleaning, prepared food delivery, insurance, housekeeping, driver's license, voter registration, financial, banking, wake-up/reminder, repair and maintenance products or services.

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187. (New) The method of Claim 179, further comprising:

establishing one or more relationships with one or more product or service providers in one or more of said offering categories.

188. (New) The method of Claim 187, wherein said one or more relationships are by agreement with one or more product or service providers.

189. (New) The method of Claim 179, wherein said database has one or more of said product or service offerings for each of said offering categories stored in a standardized data structure.

190. (New) The method of Claim 189, wherein said data structure comprises a plan component, a package component, and a feature component, wherein said plan component indicates a base offering, said package component indicates collections of features purchasable as a unit, and said feature component indicates augmentations to the base offering that are individually purchasable.

191. (New) The method of Claim 179, further comprising:

providing brand partners with an account through which said brand partners may provide one or more customization elements or customer accounts.

192. (New) The method of Claim 179, further comprising:

providing brand partners with an account through which said brand partners may track usage of said automated method.

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193. (New) The method of Claim 179, wherein said offering categories comprise a plurality of utilities, products, or services.

194. (New) The method of Claim 179, wherein one or more product or service offerings comprise one or more product or service plans.

195. (New) The method of Claim 179, wherein said geographic location comprises a country, a region, a state, a county, a governmental subdivision, a street address, a 5-digit zip code, or a 9-digit zip code.

196. (New) The method of Claim 195, wherein said governmental subdivision comprises a city, town, township, borough or parish.

197. (New) The method of Claim 195, wherein said street address comprises a street name, post office box, rural route number, floor or unit.

198. (New) An automated method for facilitating a user's selection of residential or business products or services provided to a property having a geographic location, the method comprising:

maintaining a database comprising product or service plans for more than one offering category, each of said service plans having geographic product or service areas in which said product or service plans are offered;

presenting a user with more than one offering category, wherein each of said offering categories corresponds to a product or service type available to said geographic location;

receiving from said user, user's selection of more than one offering category;

generating for each offering category selected by said user, a summary of one or more product or service plans available from one or more providers of said products or services to said geographic location; and

transmitting to said user said summary of offerings.

199. (New) The method of Claim 198, further comprising:

receiving from said user an order for one or more product or service offerings in one or more of said offering categories.

200. (New) The method of Claim 199, further comprising:

making available to each provider of said product or service offerings ordered by said user each said received order corresponding to said provider's product or service offering.

201. (New) The method of Claim 200, further comprising:

providing said user with access to one or more user accounts, each said account corresponding to a product or service offering ordered by said user.

202. (New) The method of Claim 201, wherein said one or more user accounts are maintained by said providers of said product or service offerings.

203. (New) The method of Claim 201, wherein said user may manage said user account.

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204. (New) The method of Claim 203, wherein said management of said user account enables said user to perform one or more of the following functions: verify the status of the order related to said product or service offering, update said user's profile related to said account, retrieve reports, pay for said product or service, modify said product or service offering, or terminate said product or service.

205. (New) The method of Claim 198, wherein an offering category may comprise electric utility, natural gas, metered water, telephone, television, satellite, cable, internet, security system, change of address, post office, furniture, appliance, storage, moving, pet care, childcare, bottled water, periodical, newspaper, delivery, grocery, parking, club membership, motor vehicle, dry cleaning, prepared food delivery, insurance, housekeeping, driver's license, voter registration, financial, banking, wake-up/reminder, repair and maintenance products or services.

206. (New) The method of Claim 198, further comprising:

establishing one or more relationships with one or more product or service providers in one or more of said offering categories.

207. (New) The method of Claim 206, wherein said one or more relationships are by agreement with one or more product or service providers.

208. (New) The method of Claim 198, further comprising:

providing brand partners with an account through which said brand partners may provide one or more customization elements or customer accounts.

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209. (New) The method of Claim 198, further comprising:

providing brand partners with an account through which said brand partners may track usage of said automated method.

210. (New) The method of Claim 198, wherein said offering categories comprise a plurality of utilities, products, or services.

211. (New) The method of Claim 198, wherein one or more product or service offerings comprise one or more product or service plans.

212. (New) The method of Claim 198, wherein said geographic location comprises a country, a region, a state, a county, a governmental subdivision, a street address, a 5-digit zip code, or a 9-digit zip code.

213. (New) The method of Claim 212, wherein said governmental subdivision comprises a city, town, township, borough or parish.

214. (New) The method of Claim 212, wherein said street address comprises a street name, post office box, rural route number, floor or unit.